

(12) **United States Patent**
Pollard

(10) **Patent No.:** **X36**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 30, 1791**

(54) **SPINNING COTTON**

(76) Inventor: **William Pollard**

To the Honorable Thos Jefferson, Henry Knox, Edmund Randolph, Esqrs.

The Representative & Edition of William Penn of Philadelphia especially sheweth.

That your Petitioner above ^{order} months ago purchased a model of a machine for Rolling & Spinning of Cotton at the expense of seven hundred pounds which was sold to him as a model of Mr. Richard Arkwright's machine and was brought into this country at the expense of vessel & cargo's having arrived on the Captain board's imprisonment & trial as soon as your Petitioner obtained it, he perceived to be made a machine (on a small scale) in just proportion in every respect to the said model but found it would not answer the purpose in consequence of this he wrote to the person he had purchased the model from on the 6th of Oct last and informed him that your petitioner had made a machine after the model but that it would not spin, and that as was evident some mistake had been made either by the work man or in the design, but the Gentleman having returned your Petitioners Bond for the model without any reference to the consideration for which it was given was not thought proper to give your Petitioners an answer but as he is informed he has resigned the Bond over to a third Person. Your Petitioner having been bid in post a manufacturer & being some judge of spinning & of yarn made such alterations in the machine from time to time as were convenient with his own judgment & hath now brought a machine to perfection for the Rolling and spinning of Cotton; that the model so purchased was complete as he arrived it and that of your Petitioners is also complete both are ready for inspection, the difference in them is visible and material. Your Petitioners machine may be made to contain twenty spindles or twenty turners if the steam of water or other force which is to work them will carry that number and the mill house will contain them.

In order to convey your idea of the importance of these machines your petitioner begg'd leave to offer your board to a copy of a statement in Cary's museum published in Philadelphia Oct 1st 1783, and which from his knowledge of Manchester Cotton goods he conceives to be a reasonable statement it is as follows.

* In account of the Cotton Mills in Great Britain have Estimated of the Cotton Manufactory of that Country.

The hundred and forty three cotton mills are now built & in progress in Great Britain of which nearly two thirds have been erected within these five years. Besides these there are above 20,000 hand mills or frames for spinning the skeins for the twisted yarns by the watermills.

The expense of Water, &c. is	\$19, 575. 00 ^c
Expense of hand Jennies houses buildings & auxiliary machinery	250. 00 ^c
supposed at least	
The state of the raw materials & the progressive & astonishing increase of the manufacture will be best ex- plained by what follows	
The cotton & Wool applied	to the manufacture was in
to the manufacture was in	Year. it
1781 9, 161. 999	\$9, 000. 000
1782 11, 306. 300	9, 900. 000
1783 9, 846. 179	9, 900. 000
1784 11, 250. 238	9, 930. 000
1785 17, 492. 888	9, 900. 000
1786 16, 161. 867	9, 600. 000
1787 22, 086. 666	9, 300. 000

From whence it appears that the cotton & wool applied to the hand and water machines in Great Britain in 1787 being 22, 086. 666 (worth in the raw state about \$9, 930. 000) was worth when manufactured \$7, 500. 000, yielding the immense profit to the manufacturers of the labor & fatigues of \$5, 270. 000.

It may be observed in the foregoing statement that the Raw Cotton & Wool is valued at about 1/10th per lb. Cotton can be purchased now from 18^d to 25^d per lb. Turned and in the Southern States where young negroes recently ~~are~~ disabled, their & slaves are put up into further to their owners, they being in these cotton mills be employed to advantage, and the same every nation, may be extended to the poor white inhabitants in all our large towns, and your petitioners conceive to a certain extent manufacturers which can have the aid of such machines may be compelled in this country as low as in England. One girl or boy from eight to fourteen years of age will tend from 30 to 60 spindles, & it is necessary to have a man or woman to every ten children, to keep order no certain strength is required in the spinning apartment; It may be further observed on the gen-

manufactured is only a little more than £37 5s pr lb weight and calicoes are worth from £1 to 19 3s pr lb when finished & corduroy, velvets, velveteens, jeans, &c. are worth from £1 to 19 3s and
linen from £1 to 35 3s pr lb so that if the statement had been made on cotton fabrics in your
Petition we conceive that the saving to the Country would have been much more considerable
Your Petitioner therefore prays that in consideration of the expense & trouble he has been
at in procuring the model of the English machine, which nevertheless proved in a great
degree useless, but more especially for the material & effectual improvement & alterations made
by himself so as to perfect a machine which promises such extensive advantages
to these United States by which he is now ready to lay a model before your court together with
the model of the English machine in order that the improvements and alterations may be
fully seen & understood, that your honorable board will be pleased to grant him his just
and reasonable sole and exclusive right and liberty of making constructing & using & of
renting to others to be used the said machine for fourteen years & in order to convince the
board that your petitioners wish is to encourage the using a machine of such consequence
to the Country & that it will not cost a high price for spinning he will submit to the
consideration of the Board the price for spinning he shall demand after observing that the
price for spinning of the machine with Sir Richard Arkwright obtained a Patent for
was five guineas & although his Patent is now expired your petitioner is well informed they
are still sold for one guinea pr spindle & a Patent has lately been granted in England to Messrs
Henderson & Porthouse for a machine for spinning fine & long combed wool, these Gentlemen
sell their spindles at 24 3s pr spindle and that the work is lighter here than in England

And your Petitioner shall ever pray

Henry Ward.

Philadelphia June 29th 1796.

Patent Office May 25th 1806.

The above is a true copy of Petition and Drawing

Henry S. Ellsworth
Superintendent

Copyd. YGK.

(Copy of drawing made)

(1353 words)

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